No Objection To Declassification in Full 2011/04/28 : LOC-HAK-261-4-5-2

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FM THE SITUATION ROOM//TOHAK 004//
TO RODMAN FOR THE SECRETARY - 86970
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TOHAK 004

FBIS 63
CASTRO WILL TALK WITH KISSINGER IF BLOCKADE LIFTED
PARIS AFP IN SPANISH 1126 GMT 3 JUL 74
(ALFREDO MUNOZ UNSAIN DISPATCH)

(TEXT) HAVANA, 3 JUL -- PRIME MINISTER FIDEL CASTRO LAST NIGHT INDICATED HIS WILLINGNESS TO TALK WITH SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER IF THE UNITED STATE LIFTS THE BLOCKADE AGAINST CUBA.

HE ALSO SAID HE WOULD SHORTLY RECEIVE U.S. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE CHIEF OF STAFF PAT HOLT, WHO IS VISITING IN HAVANA.

CASTRO MADE THESE STATEMENTS TO THIS AFP CORRESPONDENT WHEN HE WENT TO THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY TO SIGN THE CONDOLENCE BOOK FOR THE DEATH OF PRESIDENT PERON.

CASTRO CALLED KISSINGER A REALISTIC POLITICIAN AND INSISTED THAT THERE WAS A LACK OF MORAL OR LOGICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR THE SANCTIONS AGAINST CUBA.

THE CUAN LEADER SAID THE UNITED STATES TRADES WITH SOCIALIST COUNTRIES ON A LARGE SCALE AND ASKED: "WHY DO WE HAVE TO SUFFER A BLOCKADE THAT IS UNFOUNDED?"

HE REMARKED THAT WASHINGTON CANNOT CONTINUE INDEFINITELY FOLLOWING THE EMBARGO POLICY ADOPTED IN 1964 BY THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES.

CUBA, CASTRO STATED, HAS SHOWN THAT IT CAN RESIST THE UNITED STATES SUCESSFULLY AND THAT, PARTLY AS A RESULT OF THIS EXAMPLE, LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES ARE INCREASINGLY BECOMING FIRM IN DEFENDING THEIR INDEPENDENCE FROMTHE GREAT NEIGHBOR OF THE NORTH.

THESE STATEMNTS BY CASTRO FOLLOW HIS ACCEPTANCE OF CUBA'S ATTENDANCE AT A FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE IN BUENOS AIRES IN MARCH OF 1975 IF INVITED. A STATEMENT TO THIS EFFECT WAS MADE TO MIXICAN FOREIGN MINISTER EMILIO O. RABASA LAST MARCH AND RELEASED BY RABASA IN APRIL.

IN ANOTHER GESTURE OF GOOD WILL, CASTRO REVEALED TO THIS AGENCY THAT HE WOULD RECEIVE THE U.S. SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEES CHIEF OF STAFF, PAT HOLT. HE NOTED THAT PAT HOLT IS PRESENTLY IN CUBA ON AN INFORMATION MISSION ASSIGNED HIM BY SENATOR WILLIAM FULBRIGHT, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE. CASTRO SAID THAT FULBRIGHT, WHEN HE MADE THE REQUEST, EXPRESSED THE COMMITTEE'S INTEREST IN OBTAINING DIRECT TESTIMONY ABOUT THE REAL SITUATION IN CUBA FOR ITS OWN SATISFACTION AND FOR THE HANDLING OF POLICY

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ISSUES.
THE CUBAN PREMIER DESCRIBED THE SENATORS' INTENTION AND FULBRIGHT'S REQUEST AS POSITIVE STEPS THAT INDUCED HIM TO ALLOW HOLT'S TRIP. MOREOVER, HE SAID HE FELT THAT THE STATE DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION OF HOLT'S TRIP TO CUBA MAY INDICATE A CERTAIN CHANGE.
IN THE EVENT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD DECIDE FOR A DETENTE WITH CUBA, SECRETARY KISSINGER--AS ALL EXPERTS ARE AWARE--MUST HAVE THE SUPPORT OF CONGRESS.
CASTRO SHOWED HE WAS PLEASED AT THE FACT THAT HOLT PROPOSES TO INFORM THE INFLUENTIAL U.S. SENATE COMMITTEE OBJECTIVELY.
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